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August 25, 2003

A combined contribution with
-Cooperative Extension Service
-USDA Farm Service Agency
-The Oklahoma Mesonet

Heat Wave Continues to Plague the State

August 24- Hot, dry weather continued to plague the State last week which added more stress to already deteriorating crops and pastures. The State got virtually no rainfall last week and high temperatures of 100 degrees or better were reported in nearly all districts. Crops in many areas remain stressed with the threat of decreased potential in production. Significant amounts of rain are greatly needed throughout Oklahoma as all districts are 15 percent or more below normal. Corn, sorghum, and soybean harvest progressed in most portions of the State. The harvest for those crops continued to progress ahead of normal as a result of the summer's extreme heat and lack of moisture rapidly maturing the crops. Land preparation and planting for fall crops were delayed in many areas due to the drought conditions. Rainfall was received in only a few isolated areas and soil moisture supplies continued to be rated as mostly very short to short. Farmers had 6.6 days suitable for fieldwork during the week.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	54	35	11	0
Last Week	48	37	15	0
Last Year	12	35	48	5

SUBSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	45	40	15	0
Last Week	38	41	21	0
Last Year	24	38	35	3

Small Grains: Dry weather has further slowed down preparations for planting wheat. Fall planting will most likely be delayed in many areas if rain is not received soon. At week's end, 42 percent of the wheat ground had been prepared for seeding, slightly behind the normal pace for this time of year.

Row Crops: Dryland row crops continued to show signs of stress from the persistent hot temperatures and lack of moisture. Both dryland and irrigated crops are in desperate need of more moisture with yield potential being a major concern. Corn harvest jumped to 16 percent complete while sorghum and soybeans were 6 and 4 percent harvested, respectively, all ahead of normal pace. Thirteen percent of the sorghum acreage had reached maturity, ahead of the normal five-year average. Much of the State's soybean crop remained hampered from the prolonged hot and dry weather. Soybean pod development was a concern in many growing areas. At week's end, 11 percent of the crop had reached maturity. Twenty percent of the peanuts were mature, 13 percentage points ahead of the normal pace.

The cotton crop condition ranged from mostly poor to good condition with 17 percent opening bolls.

ROW CROPS CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending August 24, 2003

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	0	5	20	33	42
Sorghum	7	31	39	23	0
Soybeans	4	23	40	33	0
Peanuts	0	8	44	44	4
Cotton	8	15	49	26	2

Hay: Both alfalfa and other hay conditions ranged from mostly poor to good condition. Baling activities progressed where possible but at a slow pace. The fourth cutting of alfalfa advanced to 41 percent cut. The second cutting of other hay was at 67 percent cut.

HAY CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending August 24, 2003

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Alfalfa	7	20	48	22	3
Other Hay	7	25	37	29	2

Pasture: Pasture and range conditions continued to deteriorate with 82 percent of the state in very poor to fair condition. Adequate pasture availability was still a major problem across the State.

Livestock: Livestock conditions were rated mostly fair to good. Feeding hay continued in areas that lacked sufficient pastures, yet hay was being conserved as much as possible due to the short supplies. Livestock insect activities were rated as light to heavy. Cattle auctions reported a record high for steers and heifers under 800 pounds in marketings for the week. The price for feeder steers less than 800 pounds increased from last week and averaged \$97.54 per cwt. The average price for feeder heifers less than 800 pounds also increased from last week and averaged \$91.53 per cwt.

LIVESTOCK CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending August 24, 2003

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	2	5	33	47	13
Pasture & Range	9	30	43	17	1

Oklahoma Crop-Weather Summary
2800 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

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TIME DATED MATERIAL

OKLAHOMA CROP PROGRESS									
Week Ending August 24, 2003									
Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr. Avg.	Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr. Avg.
Wheat -					Soybeans -				
Seedbed Prepared	42	27	53	45	Blooming	88	84	92	89
Rye -					Setting Pods	73	64	82	73
Seedbed Prepared	40	30	58	47	Mature	11	7	15	14
Oats -					Harvested	4	2	5	3
Seedbed Prepared	30	22	46	37	Peanuts -				
Corn -					Setting Pods	98	94	95	94
Silking	98	93	100	100	Mature	20	10	12	7
Dough	89	70	94	95	Cotton -				
Mature	41	34	59	35	Setting Bolls	91	80	89	96
Harvested	16	9	17	11	Bolls Opening	17	7	7	8
Sorghum -					Alfalfa -				
Headed	79	70	78	81	3 rd Cutting	99	97	98	93
Coloring	41	30	49	39	4 th Cutting	41	33	60	42
Mature	13	8	15	10	Other Hay -				
Harvested	6	3	4	3	2 nd Cutting	67	64	77	50

WEATHER FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 24, 2003 -Temperatures ranged from 106 degrees at Hooker and Fairview on Thursday, August 21st to 59 degrees at Boise City on Tuesday, August 19th. Precipitation averaged 0.00 in. West Central and Southwest district to 0.26 in. Southeast district. Soil temperatures averaged 79 degrees at Shawnee on Sunday, August 24th to 93 degrees at Burneyville, Breckinridge and Tipton on Friday, August, 22nd and Chickasha on Saturday, August 23rd.

MESONET TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA							
Week Ending August 24, 2003							
Districts	Temperature			Precipitation			
	High	Low	Average	This Week	March 1, 2003 to August 24, 2003		
					Total	Departure from Normal	Percent of Normal
	Degrees			Inches			
Panhandle	99	67	84	0.01	11.43	-2.82	80
West Central	100	73	87	0.00	12.31	-5.68	68
Southwest	100	73	87	0.00	14.00	-4.33	76
North Central	103	74	88	0.03	13.57	-6.07	69
Central	101	73	87	0.05	14.69	-6.88	68
South Central	100	72	86	0.02	13.37	-8.69	61
Northeast	101	72	86	0.02	19.78	-3.61	85
East Central	100	73	85	0.12	17.70	-6.67	73
Southeast	100	71	84	0.26	16.75	-8.96	65